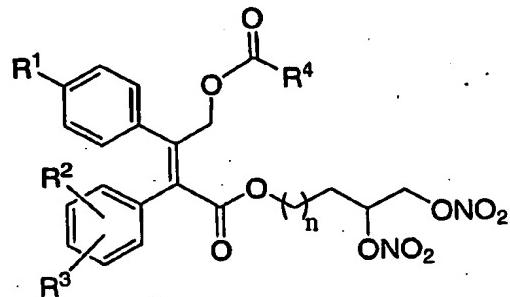


**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

The invention encompasses novel compounds of Formula I, which are nitric oxide-releasing prodrugs of diaryl-2-(5H)furanones useful in the treatment of cyclooxygenase-2 mediated diseases.

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10 The invention also encompasses certain pharmaceutical compositions and methods for treating cyclooxygenase-2 mediated diseases comprising the use of compounds of Formula I. The above compounds may be used as a combination therapy with low-dose aspirin to treat chronic cyclooxygenase-2 mediated diseases or conditions while also reducing the risk of thrombotic cardiovascular events.